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## Turkey

### Poultry and Products

### Avian Influenza Outbreak in Turkey

**2005**

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**Report Highlights:**

On October 14, the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs confirmed that the outbreak of Avian Influenza in Turkey is the same strain found in Asia (H5N1). The outbreak was first detected on a private farm in northwestern Turkey and was confirmed as AI on October 7. The government has taken precautionary measures to contain the disease. According to the Ministry, about 2000 birds died as a result of the disease with another 6000 culled for precautionary measures. Turkish poultry production may drop by 30 - 40 percent due to the drop in demand.

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## Summary

On October 14, The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) confirmed that the outbreak of Avian Influenza (AI) in Turkey is the same strain (H5N1) that is affecting Asia. The outbreak was first detected on October 1 on a private turkey farm in the northwestern region of Balikesir, Turkey and confirmed as AI on October 7. Turkey has taken strict precautionary measures to contain the outbreak. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, about 2000 birds died directly as a result of the virus with another 6000 culled for precautionary purposes. There are already indications that the outbreak is having economic consequences for the Turkish poultry and feed industries, as well as U.S. feed exporters.

## Background

On October 1, a private farmer in the Northwestern province of Balikesir found several dead birds on his farm. He contacted a local veterinarian, who initially believed the deaths were due to poisoning. Within a few days, a veterinarian from a large commercial operation in the area was summoned and samples were immediately sent to a lab in Izmir, the only lab equipped to test for AI in Turkey. By October 7, 1700 birds had died from the disease and the lab in Izmir had confirmed the presence of AI (H5). On October 12 samples were sent to a lab in England that can test for the subtype H5.

The government of Turkey (GOT) has taken swift action to contain the outbreak in Turkey. MARA established a 3 km radius quarantine zone around the infected farm with an additional 7 km radius as a surveillance area where precautions have also been taken to avoid the spread of the virus. Private poultry companies in the area have also agreed to destroy birds within an additional 5km radius outside of this 10 km zone as a safety measure. So far, almost 6,000 birds were culled as a precautionary measure. In addition, feed trucks were disinfected, and empty barns were destroyed in the area. Prohibition of live bird sales is also being more strictly enforced in the Marmara region, where the virus was first detected. Nationally, agriculture officials are making great efforts to inform both poultry producers and consumers about the outbreak. The Ministry of Agriculture's Protection and Control Division added a new section to its website on avian influenza, describing the disease, explaining precautionary measures, and answering frequently asked questions.

MARA officials have also indicated that the GOT will reimburse farmers for any flocks, which must be culled. After the confirmation of the H5N1 strain in Turkey, the Ministry of Agriculture increased the compensation fund for farmers from 60,000 YTL to 100,000 YTL (about \$75,000). MARA announced that it would pay farmers the following amounts for any birds culled: 22.5 YTL per young turkey, 30 YTL per turkey, 5 YTL per chicken, duck, and pigeon and 20 YTL per goose. Industry sources consider these prices appropriate when compared to market prices. MARA also announced that legal action would be taken against farmers in the quarantine zone who do not surrender their birds to the government for culling.

## Market Impact

Domestic: According to the Turkish Poultry Association, there are about 150 million birds used for commercial purposes in Turkey (120 million broilers and 30 million layers). Total sales in the broiler and egg sectors are \$2.2 billion and \$600 million, respectively. The Industry has indicated that poultry and egg consumption has decreased significantly. Broiler sales are down 75 percent. The domestic feed industry is already noticing a drop in sales. The Turkish Poultry Association and the Feed Millers Association representatives are scheduled to meet with the Minister of Agriculture and the President of the Chamber of Commerce to discuss ways to remedy the situation. One major poultry processor has

already started a new ad campaign in an effort to regain the consumers' trust in Turkish poultry and resume normal consumption.

Reports from major poultry and feed trading companies indicate that the industry is planning to cut poultry production about 35-40 percent. Poultry prices fell from 2.2 YTL per kilogram last Friday to 1.3 YTL per kilogram today. The industry expects the recovery period to take about two or three months, although it could be longer since the Haj season, during which red meat consumption increases, begins in January. Companies that sell layers are not as adversely affected at the moment since it is their low season.

International: The United States is typically more competitive in soybean exports to Turkey between October and December when South American beans are typically not available. However, if Turkish poultry production and consumption continue to go down, U.S. soybean sales will also decline. The drop in poultry production could also affect corn consumption.